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FACT SHEET INVESTMENT FACILITATION CENTER (IFC)

USAID/Haiti's private sector facilitation program was launched in July 2004 and implemented in two phases with assistance to date valued at over \$400,000.

Phase one was the financing of a study to review the legal and regulatory constraints to doing business efficiently in Haiti. The results of this study were published in 2006, and shortly afterwards, the Government of Haiti created the Investment Facilitation Center (IFC) by decree. The mandate of the IFC is to facilitate and promote business activities and investment by reviewing and recommending modifications to current law; adapting rules and regulations; eliminating unnecessary steps to starting a business; and streamlining procedures to reduce the delay in processing applications for getting a permit/license to start a business.

Phase two, which is now underway, supports the strengthening of the IFC through the provision of expert technical assistance to ensure that it has the necessary tools and equipment to create an enabling environment that fosters private domestic and foreign investment which will contribute to achieving economic growth and creating sustainable employment. USAID's support under phase two also includes the provision of office equipment and supplies.

The IFC is managed by a 10 member Board of Trustees, five from the private sector and five from the public sector. The Minister of Commerce and Industry is the Board President and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Haiti (CCIH) assumes the Vice-Presidency. The IFC's Director General, Guy Lamothe, was appointed in August 2006. The IFC's official inauguration in July 2007 kicks off its role as a "one-stop shop" (guichet unique) for individuals and companies interested in doing business in Haiti.

USAID's private sector facilitation program is recognized as offering critical support to President Préval's economic growth agenda. The program also has strong governmental support from the Prime Minister's Office and the Cabinet Ministries of Commerce and Industry, Finance, and Planning and External Cooperation. Support, coordination and collaboration with the Haitian private sector are vital to the program's success.

USAID's contribution to the IFC includes \$180,000 for office equipment and materials; \$150,000 to pay for staff; and \$115,000 to fund expert technical assistance to strengthen the IFC's capacity and make it fully operational. USAID's support to the IFC will be ongoing through its Investment Trade and Association Development (I-TRADE) project.